

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A self-propelled personal watercraft, comprising:

a body including a hull and a deck substantially covering the hull, wherein the

5 body includes a bow portion and a stern portion; and

a deck modification module removably attached to the deck, wherein the deck modification module is configured to be selectively removable to change a performance characteristic of the deck when the deck is submerged in water.

10 2. The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the deck modification module is configured to change the response of the body of the watercraft to a flow of water over the deck of the watercraft.

3. The personal watercraft of claim 2, wherein the deck modification module
15 includes a first surface configured to at least partially rest against the deck of the personal watercraft and a second surface configured to interact with a flow of water over the deck.

4. The personal watercraft of claim 3, wherein the second surface includes tapered sides adjacent to where the second surface meets the deck.

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5. The personal watercraft of claim 3, wherein the second surface includes rounded corners where the tapered sides meet a central portion of the second surface.

6. The personal watercraft of claim 3, wherein the deck includes a cockpit and
5 an end, and wherein the second surface includes a upturned portion configured to catch a flow of water over the end of the deck when the flow of water flows in a direction from the end toward the cockpit.

7. The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the deck modification module
10 is buoyant in water.

8. The personal watercraft of claim 7, wherein the deck modification module includes a rigid outer portion enclosing a buoyant material.

9. The personal watercraft of claim 8, wherein the rigid outer portion at least
15 partially surrounds a foam core.

10. The personal watercraft of claim 9, wherein the foam core is a polyurethane foam.

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11. The personal watercraft of claim 8, wherein the rigid outer portion is formed from a thermoformed plastic.

12. The personal watercraft of claim 11, wherein the thermoformed plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, ABS plastic, and polymer/fiber composite materials.

13. The personal watercraft of claim 8, wherein the plastic outer portion completely encloses the buoyant material.

14. The personal watercraft of claim 13, wherein the buoyant material is a gas.

15. The personal watercraft of claim 8, wherein the plastic outer portion is formed from a rotationally molded plastic.

16. A self-propelled personal watercraft, comprising:
a body including a hull and a deck at least partially covering the hull; and
a buoyant deck modification module removably coupled to the deck, wherein the deck modification module is removable to decrease a volume of water displaced by the deck when the deck is submerged in water.

17. The personal watercraft of claim 16, wherein the deck includes a bow portion, and wherein the deck modification module is removably coupled to the bow portion of the deck.

5 18. The personal watercraft of claim 16, wherein the deck includes a stern portion, and wherein the deck modification module is removably coupled to the stern portion of the deck.

19. The personal watercraft of claim 16, wherein the deck modification module
10 includes an impermeable outer portion enclosing a buoyant material.

20. The personal watercraft of claim 19, wherein the outer portion at least partially surrounds a closed cell foam core.

15 21. The personal watercraft of claim 19, wherein the outer portion is formed from a thermoformed plastic.

22. The personal watercraft of claim 21, wherein the thermoformed plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, ABS plastic, and polymer/fiber
20 composite materials.

23. The personal watercraft of claim 19, wherein the plastic outer portion completely encloses the buoyant material.

24. The personal watercraft of claim 23, wherein the buoyant material is a gas.

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25. The personal watercraft of claim 19, wherein the plastic outer portion is formed from a rotationally molded plastic.

26. The personal watercraft of claim 16, wherein the deck modification module
10 includes a first surface configured to at least partially rest against the deck of the personal watercraft and a second surface configured to interact with a flow of water over the deck.

27. The personal watercraft of claim 26, wherein the second surface includes tapered sides adjacent to where the second surface meets the deck.

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28. The personal watercraft of claim 26, wherein the second surface includes rounded corners where the tapered sides meet a central portion of the second surface.

29. The personal watercraft of claim 26, wherein the deck includes a cockpit
20 and an end, and wherein the second surface includes a upturned portion configured to catch a flow of water over the end of the deck when the flow of water flows over the deck in a direction from the end of the deck toward the cockpit.

30. The personal watercraft of claim 16, wherein the deck modification module includes a channel configured to accept insertion of a fastener to couple the deck modification module to the deck.

5 31. A buoyant module for attaching to a deck of a decked self-propelled personal watercraft, the volume adjustment module comprising:

a first surface configured to rest at least partially against the deck of the personal watercraft, wherein the first surface is contoured to match a shape of the deck;

a second surface configured to interact with a flow of water across the deck of the
10 personal watercraft; and

a buoyant material disposed between the first surface and second surface.

32. The buoyant module of claim 31, wherein the first surface is formed from a foam material and the second surface is formed from a rigid, water-impermeable
15 material.

33. The buoyant module of claim 32, wherein the buoyant material is a closed-cell foam.

20 34. The buoyant module of claim 32, wherein the rigid, water-impermeable material is a plastic material.

35. The buoyant module of claim 34, wherein the plastic material is a thermoformed plastic material.

36. The buoyant module of claim 31, wherein the first and second surfaces are
5 formed from the same material.

37. The buoyant module of claim 36, wherein the buoyant module is formed from rotationally molded plastic.

10 38. The buoyant module of claim 36, wherein the buoyant material is air.

39. The buoyant module of claim 31, further comprising a channel formed through the buoyant module, the channel being configured to accommodate insertion of a fastener to couple the buoyant module to the watercraft.

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